

Message Text

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67

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 /115 W
----- 115896

R 231410Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7385

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USMISSION USUN

USLO PEKING

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L BLANTYRE 1243

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MI, CH, TW, US

SUBJ: US RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN

1. AT PRESIDENT BANDA'S REQUEST I CALLED ON HIM AT HIS BLANTYRE OFFICE THIS MORNING. THE FIRST SUBJECT HE BROUGHT UP WAS A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER UNDER PRESIDENT FORD THERE WOULD BE ANY CHANGE IN OUR PRESENT POLICY WITH REGARD TO THE ROC. HE REVIEWED AT LENGTH SEVERAL EFFORTS BY PEKING OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH MALAWI. ON EACH OCCASION HE SAID HE TOLD THE CHICOMS HE WAS QUITE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THEIR PROPOSAL BUT ONLY WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN WOULD ALSO BE MAINTAINED. TO THIS OF COURSE PEKING WOULD NEVER AGREE.

2. IN REPLY I STATED I HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY CHANGE IN US POLICY ON THIS SUBJECT BUT WOULD REPORT HIS QUERY TO THE DEPARTMENT AND WOULD HOPE TO BE ABLE TO GIVE HIM A FULLER REPLY IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

3. COMMENT: IF PRESENT US POLICY RE THE ROC IS AS I BELIEVE ACCURATELY OUTLINED IN GIST NO 93 OF MAY 1973 I CAN SIMPLY REPORT BACK TO THE PRESIDENT EMPHASIZING THE POINTS THEREIN. IF
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DEPARTMENT FEELS THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANT CHANGES SINCE THAT DATE, OR IF THERE HAVE BEEN SHIFTS IN EMPHASIS PLEASE SEND

GUIDANCE.

4. PARTICULARLY ON THIS MY FIRST BUSINESS VISIT WITH THE PRESIDENT I WAS RELUCTANT TO ASK HIM WHAT LAY BEHIND HIS QUERY AND HE DID NOT VOLUNTEER THIS INFORMATION. IT IS POSSIBLE HE HAS BEEN ONCE AGAIN APPROACHED BY PEKING. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE HE IS RECONSIDERING QUESTION IN LIGHT OF AN INDEPENDENT MOZAMBIQUE IN WHICH THERE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE AN ACTIVE CHICOM PRESENCE. HIS POSITION IN THE PAST HAS ALWAYS BEEN SO STAUNCHLY AND PUBLICLY IN SUPPORT OF AN INDEPENDENT TAIWAN FROM WHICH, MOREOVER, HE HAS RECEIVED SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT (AND NOT IN CHARACTER) FOR HIM TO CHANGE CHINAS. HOWEVER, IF THE U.S. MIGHT POSSIBLY BE MOVING FURTHER IN THIS DIRECTION HE MAY REASON THIS WOULD MAKE A SHIFT EASIER FOR HIM.
STEVENSON

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